1998

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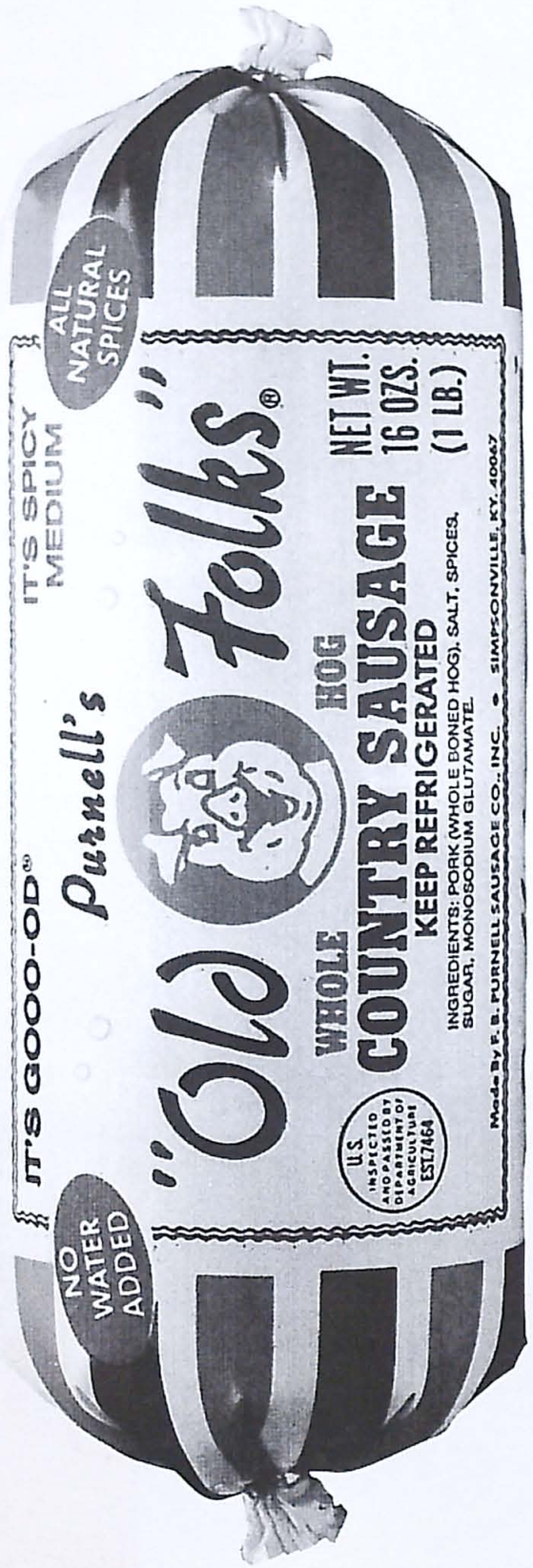
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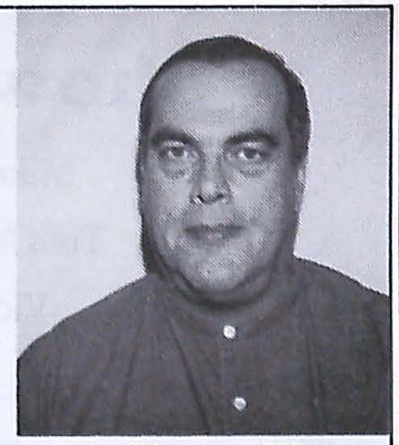

Welcome to this, our 50th Annual Show. The Thoroughbreds have had the privilege of entertaining our very special audience every year since 1948. Though these shows require a tremendous amount of time and effort to produce, it is a true labor of love.

We are a diverse group of men. We come from different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. Our ages range from 18 to 80. However, we are drawn together because we love to sing and to entertain. We love harmony. For each of these 50 annual shows, The Thoroughbreds have been blessed by the attendance of our friends, families and fans.

Tonight's show will honor all of the men who have had the good fortune of being a Thoroughbred over the past half-century. Many are gone. None are forgotten. Each note, each word, is dedicated to every member of the Thoroughbred "family" which has come to mean so much to all of us.

May you and your families have a joyous holiday and please accept our thanks for allowing us to be part of it.

Larry Pizer
President
Thoroughbred Chorus

Show Committee

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Tom Mattingly, Co-Chairman

Vic Weil, Co-Chairman

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Members at Large ..... Jim Burgess, Jim Grissom, Mike Ehringer, Jim Higgins

JEFFERSONTOWN
KENTUCKY
BICENTENNIAL
1797 – 1997

DANIEL H. RUCKRIEGEL, SR.
MAYOR

November 9, 1998

The Thoroughbred Chorus
10609 Watterson Trail
Jeffersontown, KY 40299

Dear Chorus Members:

This is a very special time of year for the chorus as you prepare for your 50th Annual Holiday Show. Your organization is well known, and very much appreciated, for the high quality of entertainment you have provided over the years to the citizens of Kentuckiana. The chorus is Jeffersontown's largest and oldest performing arts group.

"The Thoroughbred Chorus" has been an outstanding resident of Jeffersontown for over twenty years, always being supportive of the City's efforts to entertain the senior citizens, honor our veterans, and provide great barbershop singing for the annual Gaslight Festival. The dedication and hard work of each past and present chorus member has led to the enviable record of seven international championships of the Barbershop Society.

I understand that this year's show, the "Golden Age of the Thoroughbreds", will be the biggest and best you have ever produced. The appearance by the "Bluegrass Student Union" is special because the year they won the international quartet championship, 1978, is also the year that the chorus moved into Thoroughbred Hall on Watterson Trail.

On behalf of myself, the members of the City Council, and the citizens of Jeffersontown, I offer our heartiest congratulations on the attainment of this half-century milestone, while continuing to be one of the best barbershop choruses in the country. As mayor, I look forward to a strong, continuing relationship with the "Thoroughbreds". The support you have provided to the varied activities of our fine City have been very much appreciated and we look forward to strengthening our ties in the future.

Good luck to each and every chorus member as preparations begin for the upcoming international competition in Anaheim, CA, scheduled in July of 1999.

Sincerely,

Daniel H. Ruckriegel, Sr.
Mayor

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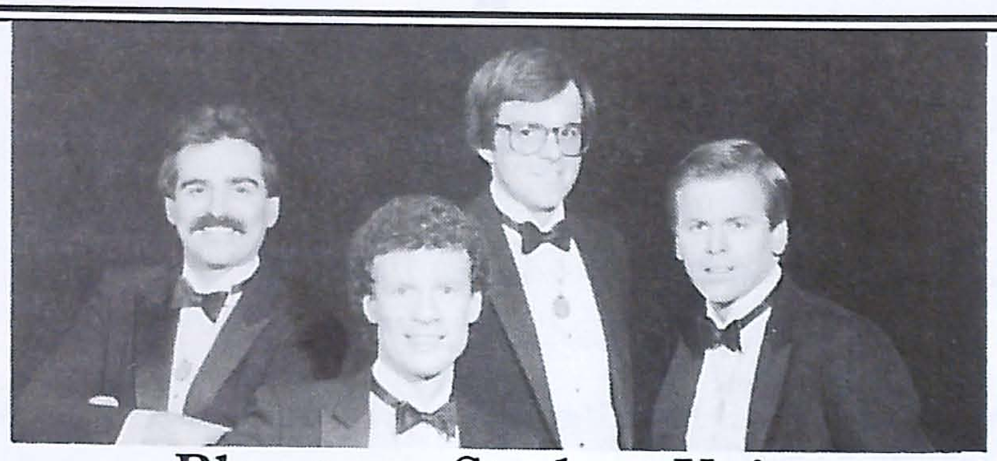

Bluegrass Student Union

Teenagers Allen, Ken, Dan and Rick began singing together as the Bluegrass Student Union quartet in December of 1973, as a result of their participation in the International Chorus Champion, the Louisville Thoroughbreds. Their first year together resulted in a fourth place finish in the Spring Cardinal District International Preliminary quartet contest and a first place finish in the Fall Cardinal District contest.

In 1975, Don Clause coached the quartet to the top of the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Competition.

The quartet finished fourth in 1976, sixth in 1977 and became International Champions in 1978.

After winning at such a young age, the quartet searched for a new mission for a year, and discovered the true joy of entertaining through concerts and recordings. The quartet subsequently became known as one of a very few champion quartets who did its best work after winning the gold.

Over the years the group has released albums, cassettes and CD's "After Class" - "Everything Old Is New Again" - "Music Man" - "Jukebox Saturday Night" - "Here To Stay" are some of their finest works.

Until 1992, the quartet continued to record, travel and perform, covering hundreds of thousands of miles, 46 states, several foreign countries and millions of quartet fans. In 1992, the group decided to take a sabbatical, to focus on careers and families, but after several years, the fans have lured them back to the boards.

Twenty-five years after Bluegrass began making music they have released their latest and greatest recording, "Legacy."

The Thoroughbred Chorus welcomes back to our Holiday Show the 1978 Gold Medal International Champions — Bluegrass Student Union!

For More Information Visit The BSU's Website at www.harmonize.com/bsu

JERRY E. ABRAMSON
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October 27, 1998

The Thoroughbred Chorus
P.O. Box 99993
Louisville, KY 40269-0993

Dear Chorus Members:

It is my understanding that you will host your 50th Annual Holiday Show on the fourth and fifth of December at Memorial Auditorium in Louisville. Please accept my heartiest congratulations to all of your past and current chorus members in meeting this milestone in a long line of successful performances.

The citizens of Kentuckiana have enjoyed your singing over these many years and the professional reputation of the "Thoroughbred Chorus" is well known. The fact that your chorus has won the Barbershop Society's international competition seven times speaks well for the dedication and talent of each and every member. I know that this year's show will be the biggest and best show you have ever produced and the music lovers of Louisville are looking forward to hearing the barbershop style holiday music.

Again, my congratulations on the outstanding achievements of the "Thoroughbreds" and I wish you every success for your 50th Annual Holiday Show. Thank you for supporting so many of our local nursing homes and church groups during the holidays. I am proud to consider your organization a mainstay of the Louisville area arts and entertainment community.

Sincerely,

Jerry E. Abramson
Mayor

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October 12, 1998

The Thoroughbred Chorus
P. O. Box 9993
Louisville KY 40269-0993

Dear Past and Present Chorus Members:

I am pleased to offer my congratulations on the occasion of your 50th Annual Holiday Show to be held in Memorial Auditorium in Louisville. I suspect that a touch of history is in the making because your barbershop chorus is one of the oldest in the country. The fact that you have won seven international championships over the years attests to the hard work and dedication that have become a cornerstone of your chapter.

I feel fortunate to have shared a stage with your great organization in the past. I recall with pleasure the opening ceremonies of the Kentucky State Fair and the excitement that you add to this colorful event. The Thoroughbreds embody the highest quality of singing and entertainment which can only bring smiles of delight to those watching and listening.

Please accept my best wishes for this milestone in the history of the Thoroughbreds. May you continue to be a wonderful part of Kentucky's musical heritage.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Patton

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THOROUGHBRED HISTORY: 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

By Harold Fow
Chapter Historian

The Thoroughbred Chorus traces its heritage as a winner to the waning days of World War II, an era when Americans were celebrating victories of another sort.

On the afternoon of July 11, 1945, Louisvillian Fritz W. Drybrough invited a number of friends to his home to listen to some barbershop harmony and discuss the possibility of forming a local chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

By the time that afternoon drew to a close, the Louisville chapter was born with 33 charter members. Fritz was elected its first president. Louisville Chapter No. 1 of SPEBSQSA was officially chartered on June 10, 1946, by O.C. Cash, national founder of SPEBSQSA, in an impressive ceremony in the ballroom of the old Henry Clay Hotel at Third and Chestnut streets.

Beginning in the late 1940s, the Louisville chapter began presenting some of the most notable barbershop shows in the country, including one annual show that featured seven top quartets. Most of the top quartets in the Society have appeared on our chapter shows during the past five decades, a tradition that continues.

The Thoroughbreds began showing their leadership on a national level in the early 1950s, when they were hosts for the Society's midwinter convention. While barbershop contests were held in those early years, the Louisville chapter had not established competition as one of its major goals.

Changing interests

In 1957, several of the chapter members, encouraged by Bill Benner, became interested in forming a competitive chorus in addition to the show chorus. Some of the older members seemed to resent this, so the new group was initially forced to meet on its own on Thursday nights. This meeting was in addition to the regular chapter meeting.

The first rehearsal of what would eventually become today's Thoroughbred Chorus was held on the third Thursday in September, 1957. Twelve members were present, with Benner chosen to be the first director. The following week, the membership grew to 24 men and the floodgates had been opened. The chapter's fledgling contest chorus worked diligently toward its goal of competing on the international level.

The older members of the chapter decided to put a stop to this new chorus by controlling the election of officers for the coming year. This action backfired, however, as members from the competitive group were elected to office and took over as the controlling faction in the chapter. Many of the older members broke away from the chapter and formed their own group, which came to be known as the Old Crows.

Quest for the gold begins

The Thoroughbreds entered their inaugural Cardinal District barbershop contest in the fall of 1958 at Lafayette, Ind., where they won the first of many district contests under Benner's direction. This victory qualified the chorus to represent the Cardinal District in Chicago in 1959, where they finished eighth with 27 men on stage at the Chicago Opera House.

The chorus again qualified for the internationals in 1960, 1961 and 1962. The group finished sixth in Dallas in 1960, second in Philadelphia in 1961 and won its first international gold medal in 1962 in Kansas City, all under Benner.

After winning the international gold medal, a chorus cannot compete in the next two years. So the Thoroughbreds next qualified for international competition in the fall of 1964, finishing second the following summer (1965) in Boston.

The Thoroughbreds won the gold again in 1966 in Chicago under new co-directors Jim Miller and Joe Wise.

After sitting out the requisite two years, the chorus won again in St. Louis in 1969, this time under Miller alone. They finished third in Atlanta in 1972, second in Portland, Ore., in 1973, and won the gold again in Kansas City in 1974, all under the direction of Miller.

1978 – A double-gold year!

The Thoroughbreds' next international competition was in Philadelphia in 1977, where the chorus finished second. The next year, the group took the gold in Cincinnati. This was a banner year for the chapter as the Thoroughbreds' Bluegrass Student Union made it a double-gold affair by winning the quartet championship.

In 1981, the Thoroughbreds put forth probably their most dominating performance ever in winning at Detroit. The margin of victory was almost 300 points, which is a huge number in this contest. In 1984, the chapter captured its seventh gold medal.

In 1987 under the direction of Ken Buckner and Allen Hatton, the Louisville singers finished third at Hartford, Conn. Hatton then went on to direct the chorus to three silver medals: 1988 in San Antonio, 1989 in

Kansas City and 1990 in San Francisco. The San Francisco contest actually finished in a tie with the gold going to the chorus that scored highest in the singing category.

In 1991 the Thoroughbreds were hosted the international contest here in Louisville and decided not to compete in order to do a better job of planning the big event. It turned out to be one of the most efficiently run conventions of all time due to the leadership of Larry Knoth and his many committee chairmen. This accolade was expressed by many of the 11,012 registrants who enjoyed the Thoroughbreds' brand of Southern hospitality.

The chorus returned to competition in1992 in New Orleans, again under the direction of Allen Hatton, finishing third. The following year, 1993, the chorus decided not to compete because of the huge expense of taking a large chorus to the convention site of Calgary, Alberta.

During 1993, Allen Hatton resigned as music director. Chorus member John Zehnder provided interim leadership until Allen's brother, Ken, was selected as director. In the fall of 1993, the Thoroughbreds again won their district contest and the right to represent the Cardinal District in Pittsburgh the next summer. The chapter finished sixth in that contest and repeated that placement in 1995 in Miami Beach.

In 1996, the Thoroughbreds finished eighth at the international contest in Salt Lake City, once again under the direction of Ken Buckner. Following that disappointing showing, the chapter's energy shifted toward relearning the basics of barbershop, as well as improving the quality of local shows.

During the early and mid-1990s, "super choruses" with 120 and 130 singers sprang up in major metropolitan areas around the country, leaving the Thoroughbreds at a distinct disadvantage. While the chapter won its district in the fall of 1996 under the direction of John Zehnder, it finished 14th the next summer at the international contest in Indianapolis. The Thoroughbreds failed to qualify for the 1998 international.

Early in 1998, chorus members were surveyed and indicated a renewed interest in regaining the chapter's status as a perennial contender on the international stage. Ken Hatton accepted the challenge of rebuilding the chapter's musical skills. Ken invited his brother, Allen, to act as the chapter's coach and after a few weeks asked the chapter to name Allen co-director. As a result of the Hattons' leadership, this fall the Thoroughbreds once again qualified for the international contest, which will be held next July in Anaheim, Calif.

The Thoroughbreds will travel to Anaheim with the eighth highest qualifying score among the 20 competing choruses. Louisville's premier men's barbershop chorus is once again in "the big show" and training hard to go for the gold.

Community involvement

In addition to their competitive efforts, the Thoroughbred Chorus has become well known for its annual holiday show, which hits the 50 year mark this year. In addition, the chorus has appeared numerous times at Iroquois Amphitheatre and with the Louisville Orchestra, including a 1997 concert featuring Rosemary Clooney.

The chorus each year seeks ways to say thank you to Louisville and Jeffersontown, home of the chapter's Thoroughbred Hall. One of the most rewarding of these activities is an annual tradition of singing at numerous area senior citizen homes. The chorus has appeared in many benefit shows over the years for fellow charitable organizations. The chapter's budget includes annual contributions to area charities in addition to Heartspring, a service organization for speech-impaired children that is supported by barbershop chapters all over the country.

The Thoroughbreds are regularly asked to perform at the opening of the Kentucky State Fair, at UK-U of L sporting events and homecomings, gubernatorial inaugurations, and many other local, state, and national events.

In addition to its seven international gold medals, recordings and appearances at area events, the Thoroughbred Chorus has received international acclaim thanks to many award-winning quartets. In addition to the Bluegrass Student Union, the chorus has produced two other international championship choruses, The Interstate Rivals in 1987 and The Second Edition in 1989.

Thoroughbred Hall

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Those interested in a historic setting will find Thoroughbred Hall a real treasure. The cornerstone was laid July 3, 1833. After a fire, the new building, basically as it appears today, was dedicated September 8, 1895. It was purchased by The Thoroughbred Chorus in 1981 and subsequently placed on The National Register of Historic Buildings.

For additional information and/or a personally conducted tour phone J. Bruce Garwood at 425-0446.

50th Anniversary Holiday Spectacular

WELCOME to our 50th Annual Holiday Show. This year's theme is "50th Anniversary Holiday Spectacular". Many of our selections for the show are traditional Christmas favorites. This year we want to emphasize that there are many reasons for all of us to celebrate and sing together, as we live and sing together, in perfect harmony.

We would like to give special thanks to our featured guest directors, Jim Miller and Ken Buckner, The Bluegrass Student Union and The Way Over Forty-Four Quartet. Without their participation and support we could not offer you, our most special guests, one of our finest holiday shows in the past 50 years. Thanks for being here!

Act I

Show Biz Opener/Something's Coming . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus

Zing Went The Strings Of My Heart . . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus

Way Over Forty-Four Cameo Spot

Twilight Time . . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus
Soloists Dave Hasch and Jon Nicholas

You'll Never Walk Alone . . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus
Directed by Ken Buckner

The Atchison Topeka And The Santa Fe . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus

Over The Rainbow . . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus

Pack Up Your Sins/Happy Feet Medley . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus

It Could Happen To You . . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus

Everybody Says Don't . . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus

Act II

Danny Boy . . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus
Directed by Jim Miller

Way Over Forty-Four . . . . . Harold Fow, W.C. Walter, Jerry Strange & Bruce Garwood

— INTERMISSION —

Act III

Bluegrass Student Union . . . . . Ken Hatton, Allen Hatton, Rick Staab & Dan Burgess

Special Night . . . . . Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus

Christmas Medley

Light Brigade . . . . . Pat Conroy, Terry Gabhart, Lee Wolpert & Richard Reidel

First Verse . . . . . Jim Higgins, Al Wade, Tom Parrish & Mel Cooksie

Winning Ticket . . . . . Bill Gregory, Chris Carter, J. P. Skinner & Jeff Wright

Act IV

Christmas with the Thoroughbred Chorus

O Holy Night

Angels We Have Heard On High

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

What Child Is This

Adeste Fideles O Come All Ye Faithful

Silent Night

Thoroughbred Chorus

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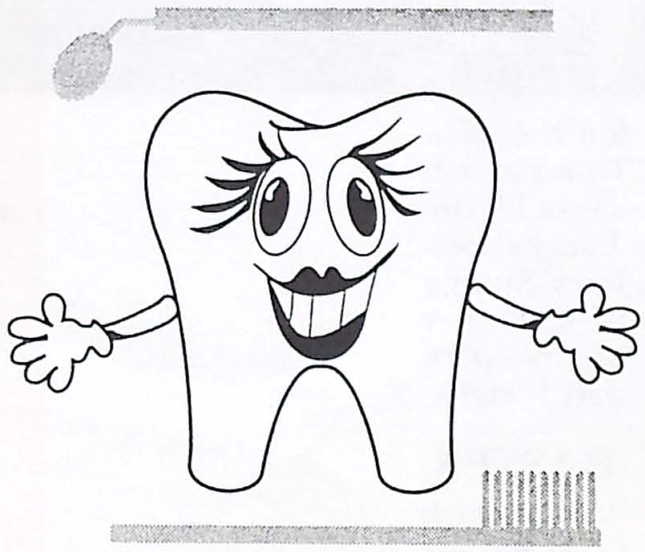

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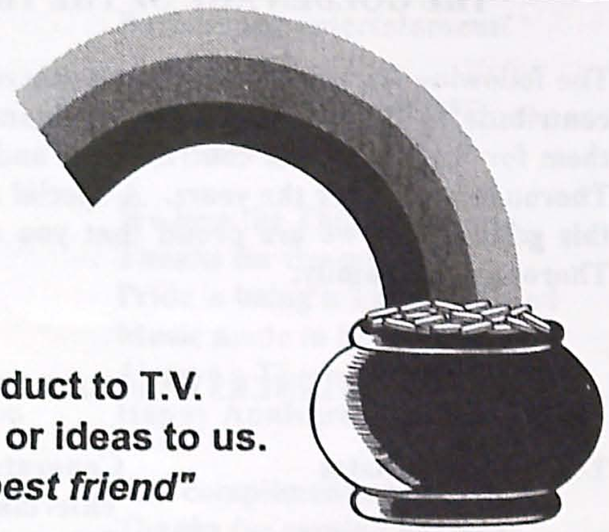

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The following friends of the Thoroughbred Chorus have chosen to contribute to the chorus by special financial support. We thank them for their generous contributions and for their support of the Thoroughbreds over the years. A special thanks to each of you for this gesture and we are proud that you are a special part of the Thoroughbred family.

WINNERS CIRCLE PATRONS

Tom Nief Associates	Congratulations on 50 years of entertainment!
Larry and Linda Wright	Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary!
Ken and Lataine Basham	Congratulations and keep on Singing!
Bob and LaVerne Basham	Congratulations and keep it going.
Your Sis, Cresithia James	From one songbird to another!
Louis Pierite	Break a leg!
Your Mom, Laura Johnson	For the Director in the family.
Love Dad, Sam Woodmore and family	We're proud of you son!
Robert, Sonya and girls	Show'em how Uncle Mark!
Ann Moye'	Best Wishes for a great Concert!
Rose Ramsey	Have a wonderful concert Mark!
Bruce and Lula Woodmore	Sing praises Mark!!!!!
Hattie Broadus	Congratulations! Have a great concert!
Barbara Trowell	May you continue to make beautiful music!
Cheryl Alcon	Good luck Mark and the Thoroughbred Chorus!
Bruce and Gloria Carlton	Congratulations on #50!
Linda and Bill Whitlock	Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary!
Dick and Mary Carlton	Thanks for 50 years of Barbershop entertainment!
W.C. and Gretchen	It's still fun!
Gail Brown	Keep a song in your heart!
Danny Brown	Best wishes to the best
Lauren, Chris and Elizabeth Roberts	We love the Thoroughbreds
Bristol Thacker Family	Thanks for the memories
Len Brown	Pride is being a Thoroughbred
Janie and Ed Gilliam	Music made in heaven!
Lynn Harprink	Always a Thoroughbred
Mike and Barbara Johnson	Happy Anniversary T'breds
J.B. Ratterman Sons Funeral Home	Our compliments, best wishes
J.P. Kayrouz	Thanks for serving the best in music as we serve the best in food!
Beuchel Barbershop	Best wishes on 50 years singing for this community
Nantz and Kraft Florist	Keeping you in harmony, best wishes!
Ohio Valley Door Corporation	Singing praises to the Thoroughbreds on their 50th!
David and Marge Roddy	Best wishes on your 50th!
Larry and Wendy Carlton	Wishing you a great 50th
Wayne and Lou Nally	Good luck from a friend
Jim and Marie Craig	From a Scottsburg Friend
Bill Bates	Good Luck!!!!
Greg Banks	Best Wishes
Fred Combs	Happy Anniversary!
Cupp Chiropractic Center	The Lord bless you all

STARTING GATE PATRONS

David and Gail Schank	Best wishes on your 50th!
Total Vend, Inc.	Good luck on your next 50 years!
Alice Gentry	Good luck and congrats!
Nicole and Erica	We love you dad! Good luck
Aunt Alice Yauman	Love, and sing well Mark
Sheldon and Michelle Albritton	Good luck Mark!!!!
Michael and Yvonne Moore	Have a great concert Mark!!
John Smith	Sing Well Mark!!!!!!
Leon Wagoner	Best wishes Mark
Ann Lucas	Best wishes for a great concert Mark
Robin Tatlor	God Bless!!!
Greg and Jane January	Best wishes and good luck Mark
Debbie Peterson	Congratulations Mark!!!!!
Mae Johnson	God bless.
Gloria Williams	Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!
Derek Woodmore Family	Your brother and family are proud of you Mark!
Karen D. Scruggs	Congratulations Mark!
James Sweat #1 Friend	Best wishes on your concert
Valorie H. Johnson	Good luck on your new endeavor
# 3	The Montague Boys are coming!!
Scott Nicholas	Break an arm!!!!!
Dixie Griffin	Best wishes for a great concert.
Carol Mullins	Best wishes, Break a leg!
Mr. & Mrs. Al Roberts	Best wishes on your 50th show.
Jack Stumph	Congrats on 50 yrs. Of barbershopping
Margie Tillett	Thanks for 50 yrs. Of Christmas entertainment!
Matt Knight	Thoroughbreds, in tune for the season
Carl Russell	Thoroughbreds shape up my Christmas1
Roger Lee	The best for your next 50!
Harold Purkhiser	50 years and going strong
Mark Yates	Happy Holidays!!
Glenn Smith	Hip, Hip, Hooray!!! 50 years
Lee James	Best Wishes on your 5oth!
Mr.& Mrs. Mark Craven``	Thanks for what you add to the season

The Thoroughbred Chorus is grateful to the following individuals for their generous donations in support of the Chorus

Bernice Hopkins
Mrs. Vera Littrell / The Bob Littrell Memorial Fund
Dr. and Mrs. Bob Grammer
R . McKiernan
C harles Lacy
Darwin Secrist

The Thoroughbreds appreciate your donations. Contributions may be sent to: Ed Wirth, Treasurer, Thoroughbred Chorus, P.O. Box 99993, Louisville, Kentucky 40269-0993

NOTES OF INTEREST

Ms. Ruth Edrington holds the record for loyalty as a Thoroughbred supporter. Ms. Edrington is attending her fiftieth holiday show with the thoroughbreds. She has never missed a performance and we thank her for her incredible support.

Mr. Louie DeCar has been attending the holiday shows since the late forties and has complete copies of all our programs! We need this gentleman as our historian and like so many of you who have attended for years we thank Mr. DeCar for his support. By the way would you consider selling your collection?

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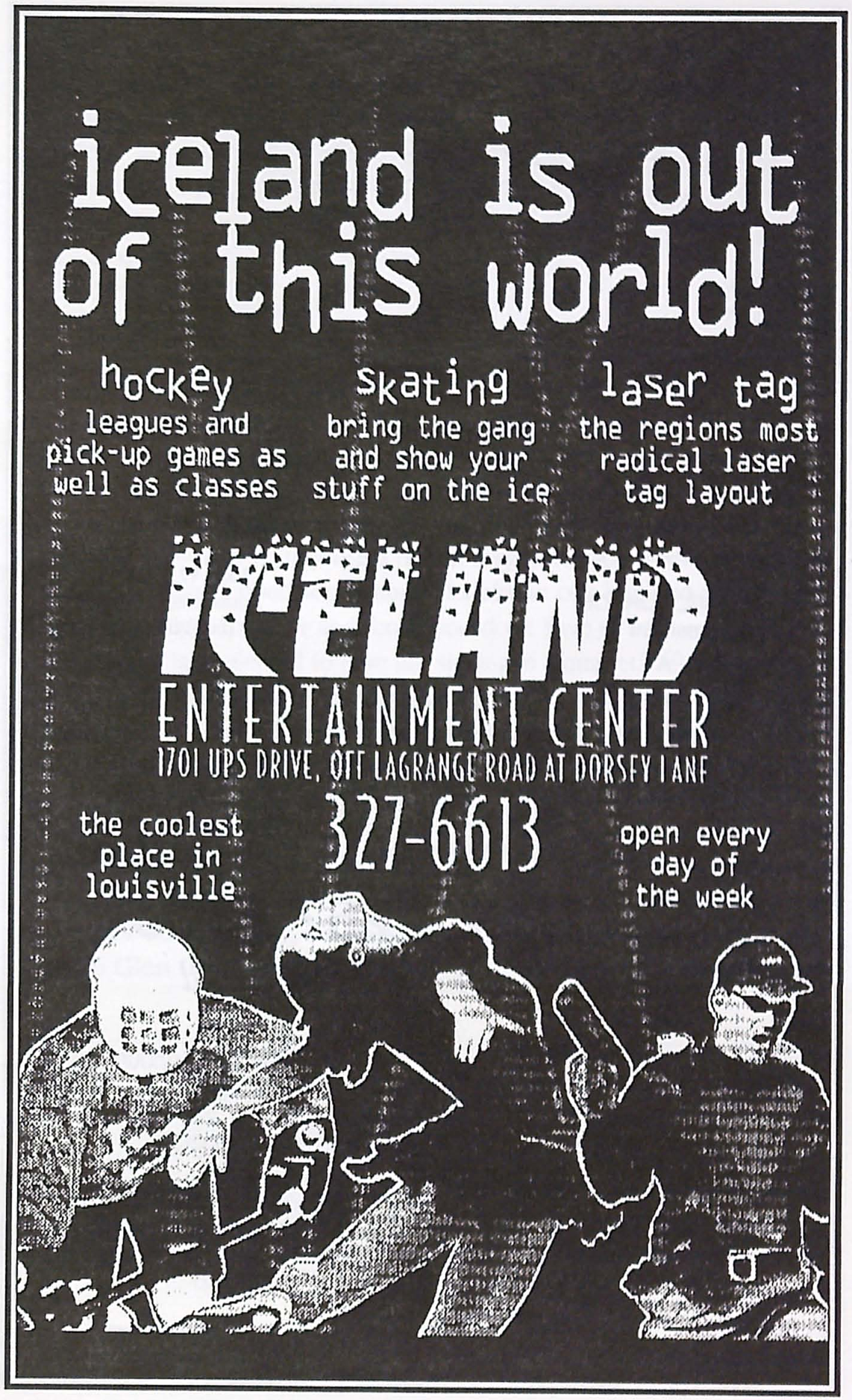
From left to right: Gretchen Walter - Treasurer; Marilyn Fleming - President; Sharon Wade - Membership V.P.; Paulette French - Vice President; Cee Cee Wade, Secretary (not pictured).

Special Thanks

The Thoroughbreds thank the Ladies Auxiliary, our wives, girlfriends and families who make it possible for us to enjoy our hobby and be here tonight. Without you this would not be possible. Thank you!

Don't forget to visit the Ladies' Auxiliary Boutique in the lobby for great holiday gifts!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